

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

With this Amendment, claims 1, 6 and 9 are amended; claims 2 and 7 are canceled; and new claims 11-16 are added.

Thus, claims 1 and 3-6, 8-16 are all the claims pending in the application.

Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims define patentable subject matters.

I. Summary of the Non-final Office Action

Claims 1 and 5 stand rejected under U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by anticipated by **Takahashi et al.** (US 5,923,268; “**Takahashi**”).

Claims 2-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Takahashi** in view of **Tetsuya** (Japanese Pub. 08-237777).

Claims 6 and 9-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Takahashi** in view of **Shibmiya** (US 6,795,130; “**Shibmiya**”).

Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Takahashi** in view of **Shibmiya** further in view of **Tetsuya**.

II. Analysis of the Claim Rejections

With respect to claims 1, 6 and 9, Applicant submits that **Takahashi** does not teach (i) storing a current equipment mode of the universal remote control and changing the equipment mode to a display apparatus mode; and (ii) restoring the equipment mode of the universal remote control to the stored unchanged equipment mode of the universal remote control after the step of transmitting the key codes. Note that the above two elements are incorporated by adding the inventive features of canceled claim 2 or 7.

Since **Takahashi** does not store a current equipment mode, in order to switch back to the current equipment mode from another equipment mode, a procedure to change the equipment mode needs to be performed. In the present application, however, a current equipment mode (initial device mode) can be restored without changing the equipment modes.

Applicant also submits that **Tetsuya** does not teach the above-mentioned feature of the present application. While **Tetsuya** discloses restoring to the normal mode from the presetting mode in paragraphs [0023] to [0025] and the abstract, its teaching does not reach beyond a simple restoration of the normal mode from a presetting mode when required key entries are not made within a predetermined time after the presetting mode was selected. Here, **Tetsuya**'s mode restoration is performed without such element as transmitting key codes as recited in claims 1, 6 and 9. In other words, the normal mode is restored from the presetting mode (i.e., a changed equipment mode) without transmitting key codes at the presetting mode, which was intended by a user. On the other hand, the claimed methods disclose that the equipment mode is restored after transmitting key codes according the changed equipment mode.

Since **Tetsuya** lacks such element as transmitting key codes according to the changed equipment mode before restoring the equipment mode (e.g., a normal mode), Applicant respectfully submits that either **Takahashi** alone or **Takahashi** in view of **Tetsuya** does not render the claimed method obvious.

Applicant also submits that claims 3-5, 7-8 and 10 should be allowable at least due to their dependency from claims 1, 6 and 9, respectively.

III. New Claims

Applicant adds new claims 11-16 to more fully cover the present invention.

In claims 11, 13 and 15, the Equipment Setting button 314 (Fig. 4b) is defined as “at least one button for selecting one mode from among modes of the plurality of equipment including the display apparatus mode”, and the TV/External input selection button 311, already defined as “an external input select button”, is further described according to paragraph [07]. New claims 11, 13 and 15 also contain a limitation stating an important feature of the present invention, that is “not pressing the at least one button to select one of the modes of the plurality of the equipment to change an equipment mode to the display apparatus mode”.

New claims 12, 14 and 16 describe that an equipment mode is changed only to the display apparatus mode when input buttons related to the selection of the external inputs into the display apparatus are pressed regardless of which external input of the external inputs is selected.

Thus, Applicant respectfully requests the entrance and allowance of these new claims.

IV. Conclusion

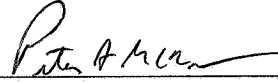
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Patent Application No.: 10/633,618

Attorney Docket No.: Q75501

Respectfully submitted,



Peter A. McKenna
Registration No. 38,551

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: January 16, 2007